

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1-6 and 8-12 are allowed.

The Examiner indicated that claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, but can be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection.

The drawing and the disclosure are objected to.

Also, the Examiner did not accept the claim for priority.

In connection with the Examiner's objection to the specification and the drawings, applicant has amended the specification as required by the Examiner. A copy of the drawings has been submitted herewith with the proposed correction. It is believed that the Examiner's grounds for the formal objections to the drawings and the specification are therefore no longer tenable.

Claim 7 has been amended to make it dependent on claim 4. It is believed that claim 7 should also be allowed, together with claims 1-6 and 8-12.

In view of the Examiner's comments on the issue of claim for priority, it is respectfully submitted that the corresponding priority German application was filed on February 2, 2001. The present U.S. application was filed on February 4, 2002, since February 2, 2002 was a weekend term. Thus, the filing date of the present application should be corrected, and the priority must be claimed from the German priority application.


A copy of the Express Mail confirmation and a registration book are submitted herewith to confirm the mailing of the present application.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is believed that the present application should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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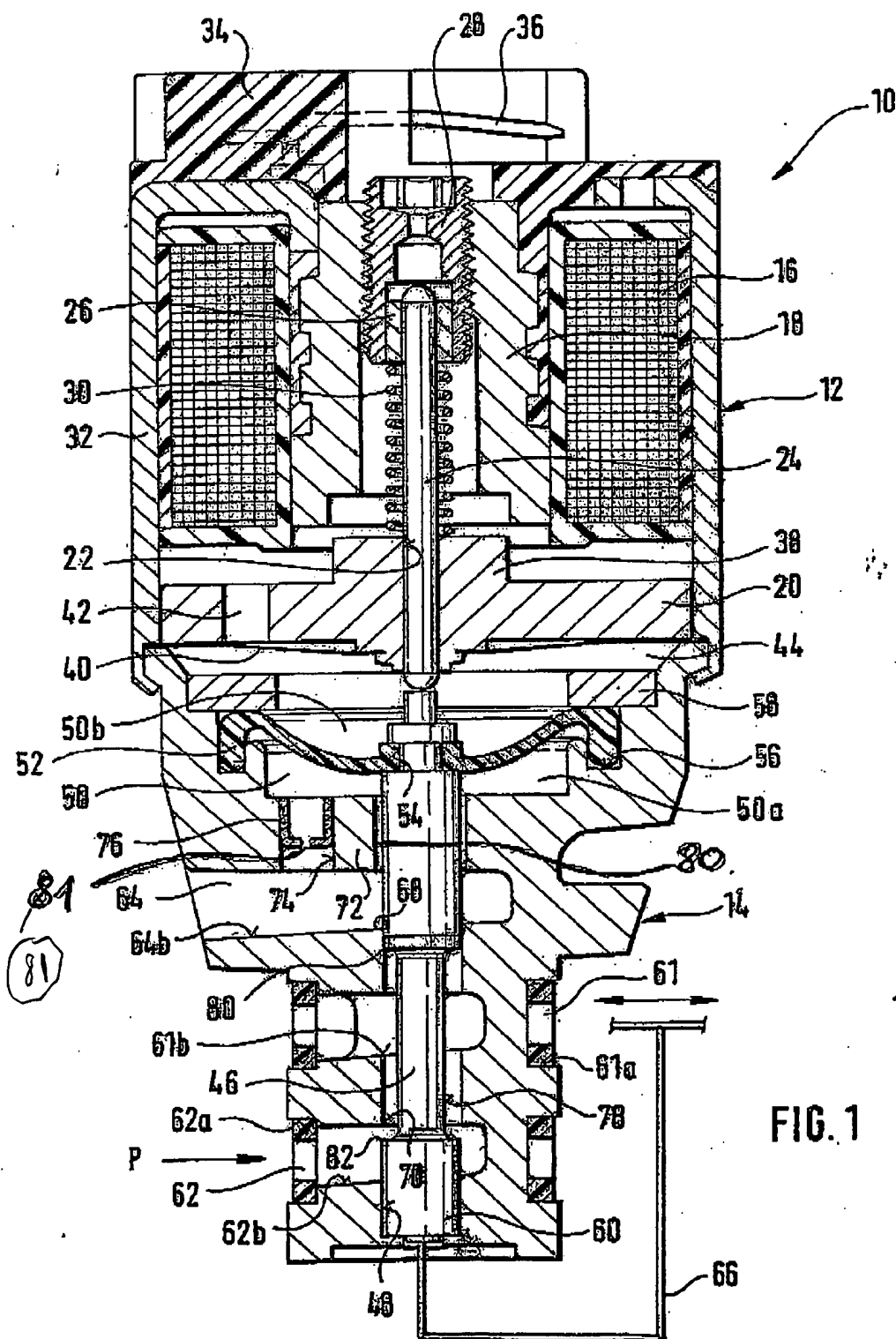


FIG. 1